Closure of SSI Units

885. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of SSI units have become sick and closed because of the competition from multinational and other major industries;

(b) if so, the number of such units closed during the last three years;

(c) whether Government has any action plan to strengthen the SSI sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has no information on the number of micro and small enterprises (MSE) (erstwhile SSI units) which have became sick and closed because of competition from multinational and other major industries. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on the sick MSEs who have availed loans from scheduled commercial banks. Accordingly to RBI, the number of sick MSEs during 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 were 1,38,041, 1,26,824 and 1,14,132 respectively.

(c) and (d) Promotion and development of MSMEs is primarily the responsibility of State/ Union Territory (UT) Governments. To assist the States/UTs and supplement their efforts in this regard, the Central Government implements several schemes/programmes for promotion and development of MSEs. These, *inter alia*, include, (i) facilitating availability of credit mainly through public sector banks/institutions, (ii) assistance for (a) technology upgradation, (b) marketing, (c) integrated infrastructural development, (d) comprehensive need-based development of clusters, and (iii) entrepreneurship development.

Further, the Government has enacted the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 to facilitate the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises and enhancement of their competitiveness. The Act has come into effect from 2nd October, 2006.

Revival of leaf-cup/plate industry

886. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to revive the traditional leaf-cup/plate making as a self-employment option in a big way to generate additional employment opportunities in the country especially in the tribal dominated regions, to improve their economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of the Centre to help the Orissa Government both physically and financially to develop this sector for the tribal community of this region?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government (in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) has been implementing *inter alia* the Rural Employment Generation Programme